

Br RECREATION COMMITTEE
Minutes
7:30-9:00 p.m., November 8, 2006
Azalea Room, Community Center

In Attendance

Members: Tim Dowd, Dallas Burtraw, Cindy Dyballa, Jane Hurst, Matt Johnson, Roy Austin, Jay Keller, Howard Kohn

Staff: Debra Haiduven, recreation director

Guests (last two agenda items): Terry Seamens, Ward 4 councilmember & Diana Kohn, Arts & Humanities member

Teen Manager

Debra reported that the City is advertising to hire a “teen manager” who will oversee all programs currently available to teenagers and be charged with creating new programs. The salary is in the 42K-46K range. Debra said the “ideal” applicant would be a “twentysomething” with about five years of experience. Cindy suggested reaching out to CASA de Maryland for leads. Jane suggested contacting the University of Maryland. Matt suggested getting in touch with the “outreach coordinator” who works with Takoma Park Middle, Eastern and SSI.

There was general support for Jay’s suggestion that the Rec Dept. obtain data from the schools about class sizes in order to understand the youth population better.

Logo

The committee endorsed a new marketing logo for the Rec Dept. selected from among drawings done by Patrick Rittenhouse, a City staffer with an artistic flair. The new logo features the Community Center tower with open-air windows and an “action figure.”

Teen Programs

Debra reported that adolescents (ages 11-14) are signing up for memberships at the community center at about a 3:1 ratio to teens (ages 15-18). In total more than 200 are signed up.

Howard noted that the well-regarded “Teen Empowerment” program in Boston uses a growing-up-with-the-program model that emphasizes recruiting younger children who are likely to stick with the program when they become teenagers. “Teen Empowerment” also uses a “buddy” system in which teenagers serve as mentors/tutors to children in elementary school.

Auditorium Stage

Howard reported that the “stage subcommittee” continues to work with Debra & Lonni Moffett to finalize cost estimates and other answers for the City Council. Among

the questions: 1) should the stage be extended with a “build-out” or with portable “extenders”; 2) should the ADA access be a “lift” or a ramp; 3) should the dais be removed, placed on rollers for portability or remain locked in place; 4) should there be a curtain in front of the dais during performances; 4) should the stage floor be carpet, wood or an alternate hard surface.

Numerous “performing arts” professionals have been working with the subcommittee. Jay & Tim suggested contacting the people who do the set and stage design for Lumina Theatre for additional advice.

Gym

Howard reported that a feasibility study is due to be released publicly sometime in November.

Public Art

Debra noted that art programs at the community center are popular, and that she would like to see more projects that involve teenagers as apprentice artisans. Diana reported that the Arts & Humanities Commission was considering a proposal to use the parking-lot walls in front of the community center as a canvas for monthly art shows that would be exhibited only a temporary basis. Also under discussion at Arts & Humanities are proposals for permanent outdoor art at the center. The 4-x-4 panels previously on display are now in storage.

Constitution & Bylaws

Roy volunteered to write a draft of a “statement of purpose” for the Recreation Committee constitution. Terry reported that the Council has begun a discussion about using standardized language in the establishing documents for all formally appointed committees. The Recreation Committee is scheduled to be recognized as a formal committee in the near future.

Terry asked what the “ideal” size would be for the Recreation Committee. By general consensus, there was agreement for 9-to-13 voting members. Tim pointed out that other members could be added on a non-voting basis.